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Before the Vermont election the Hoffman House mathematicians were so indiscreet as to commit themselves to certain figures. If the Republican plurality in Vermont did not exceed that estimate. a Democratic victory would be won or "claimed" with due jubilation and hurrah. The Republican plurality did greatly exceed the Democratic specifications. Whereupon the mathematicians had to issue a new set of figures, pooh-pooh Vermont and explain to a grinning country that the Democrats hadn't made or tried to make a brisk campaign in Vermont.

The disappearance of their Green Mountain mirage was a warning to the calculating heads at the Parker headquarters. No more such mistakes. As to Maine, they would be safe and sane. If the Maine Republican plurality was one vote short of the 34,132 of the September election of 1900, a Democratic victory would be "claimed." Finally, the Democratic sages and mages wanted everybody to understand that there was no effective Democratic organization in Maine.

As to the latter point, we have only to call as a witness our good old contemporary the Eastern Argus of Portland, a Democrat more hardshelled than the everlasting rocks:

"The Democratic candidate for Governor has made a hard, strong and aggressive fight."

This gentleman, the Hon. CYRUS WA-TERVILLE DAVIS, "loosened up" freely at the call of duty. Not for many years have the Maine Democrats made so hot a canvass. They were greatly helped in the cities by the feeling against liquor prohibition. In spite of losses for this cause in the cities, the Republican plurality is put at somewhere between 25,000

To those queer heads at headquarters, this is a "victory." On the Wednesday after the Tuesday after the first Monday in November these mighty minds will be chuckling joyously: "PARKER wasn't beaten as badly as BRYAN!" Should such be the result, should Fate and the returns be kinder to the Judge than they were to the Peerless, it will be a Democratic "victory." Not to beat ROOSEVELT, but to beat BRYAN, seems to be the summit of Democratic hope.

Vermont and Maine are sufficient proof that there is no water for a Democratio "tidal wave."

Japan and Corea.

Two facts indicate that the Tokio Government, without awaiting the termination of the war with Russia, has decided forthwith to inaugurate a practical protectorate over Corea. Mr. MEGATA, an official of the Tokio Department of Finance, has been made the virtual Comptroller of the Corean Finance Department, and Mr. D. W. STEVENS, who has been long connected with the Japanese Legation in Washington, has been appointed Permanent Adviser to the Corean Foreign Office. The political ascendancy thus asserted is likely to be quickly followed by an industrial and nercial renovation of the Corean peninsula, unless, what now seems improbable, the Japanese should be worsted in their contest with the Russian Empire.

There is an obvious propriety in the assumption by Japan of the rôle of renovator toward Corea. It is probable that the fount of Japanese civilization was China but the stream of civilizing influence did not flow directly from the Middle Kingdom. It was primarily and directly from the Corean peninsula that the islands now comprised in the Mikado's Empire derived the elements of culture and it was from the same source that, about the seventh century of our era, they borrowed the Chinese mode of writing. In every branch of literature and science, and in every fine art and mechanical art, the Coreans, themselves the pupils of China, were the teachers of Japan. That is the sentimental ground of the passionate desire for the annexation of Corea which has been more than once evinced by the Japanese. There has been of late years a powerful economical motive for expansion in the same direction. We refer, of course, to the growing pressure of population on the means of subsistence in the relatively crowded territory of the insular State. To these reasons for seeking control of the Corean peninsula should be added the recognition of the strategic importance of its southeastern angle. A Russian fortress placed at that point, would be, as the Japanese have said an arrow aimed at their country's heart.

There can be but little doubt that in Japan's invigorating hands Corea will regain within half a century at least as much prosperity as she has at any time enjoyed. There is foundation for the belief that the Corean is less preponderantly Mongolian than are his neighbors on the east or on the west, and that in him there is a strain of Indo-Caucasian blood that neither the Chinese nor Japanese possess. How he got the strain is a matter of pure conjecture, but many ethnologists concur in asserting that it exists. It is a fair inference that under favorable conditions the civilization of the West should find in Corea congenial

There is always, of course, a good deal of friction when a country previously

independent passes into the status of wardship. We have seen the process recently exemplified in Tonquin, in Annam, in Madagascar, in the Tunisian Regency, in Zanzibar and in Egypt. What about the treaties made by Corea, while still independent, with several European Powers and with the United States? That is the very question which arose in the just cited examples of the assumption of a protectorate, and there is no reason to assume that the answer will be more difficult than it proved to be in the instances named.

The Case of the Lena.

It looks as if, by sending the cruiser Lena to San Francisco, the Grand Duke who presides over the Russian Ministry of Commerce had made a mistake similar to that which he committed when he ordered the volunteer vessels St. Petersburg and Smolensk to molest neutral commerce in the Red Sea. He apparently takes for granted that the United States will exhibit even more complaisance to Russia than either Germany or France has yet ventured to evince, and will permit the Lena to obtain coal and the needed repairs in San Francisco, so that at her leisure she may capture the Japanese and American steamers engaged in the carrying trade between our Pacific coast and Japan. We believe that the Captain of the Russian cruiser and the Grand Duke, whose orders he presumably is obeying, will learn quickly from our State Department that this country will not brook such cavalier treatment as has been administered to China, and that if the Lena really needs considerable repairs she can secure them only on condition that she be forthwith dismantled and laid up in San Francisco until the end of the war.

We learn with satisfaction that both the Collector of the Port and Rear Admiral GOODRICH, commanding the squadron now in the harbor of San Francisco, have been directed to inspect the Lena and to ascertain precisely what repairs are required. On the face of things, the Japanese Consul seems to have been justified in protesting against the acceptance of the assertion made by the Captain of the Russian warship that extensive repairs were needed for the boilers and engines of the vessel, inasmuch as the Lena has traversed the distance of some four thousand miles at an average speed of 19 knots an hour. It is scarcely credible that such speed could have been maintained by a steamer whose machinery or hull was badly damaged. That is a question, however, about which trustworthy information will be promptly received.

As to coaling, the rule of international law is plain. The Lena cannot be permitted to obtain more than sufficient fuel to carry her to the nearest Russian port, which is Vladivostok. Port Arthur is blockaded, but Vladivostok, according to the latest advices, is open. To allow the Lena to fill her bunkers on the pretext that the harbor of Vladivostok is closed and that she means to sail for the Baltic would be to qualify her to prey on Japanese and American commerce in the Pacific for an indefinite period.

All that Japan's representatives in San Francisco and Washington will ask in the case of the Lena is that our Government shall conform strictly to the course prescribed for neutrals by international law. They may be sure that the American people approve of the State Department's ntention to comply with the reque

The P. C. C. and the "Trend." After a brisk but brief preliminary cackle, the Parker Constitution Club has been resting. We don't understand how any patriot head can rest upon a pillow or any patriot lips be mute while the Constitution is being torn into tatters by Republican hands. Is there a colorable excuse for the very learned and distinguished Democrats and Mugwumps of the P. C. C.? Some of them are abroad, shooting, or drinking healing waters, or meditating upon the Constitution and the Fathers from their terracca and castled steeps. Some are at the mountains. Some rest by the shore of the wine-dark sea. Some are at Lenox: some at Bar Harbor, and so on. They deserve all the splendor and tranquillity which they enjoy; but how can they enjoy anything without the Constitu-

Would even NEBO have played golf while Rome was burning? If NERO fiddled, let us remember that fiddling is a Jeffersonian pastime, and therefore Constitutional, laudable and of the

right simplicity. Fortunately, one Parker Constitution "clubman" has not dawdled away his vacation and let the Constitution go hang. The eminent fitness of the Hon. JOHN R. DOS PASSOS to defend the Constitution and to oppose all infringements and trespasses thereon will be admitted by lawyers and laymen alike. Last Saturday Mr. Dos Passos "opened the campaiga" at Kinsale, Westmoreland county, Va. The Gazetteer says that steamers from Baltimore touch at Kinsale weekly. Evidently, Kinsale is a great emporium of commerce and enown; worthy, indeed, to have, as it was pations, rather than for farm laborers and privileged to have, the first invoice of Parker Constitutionalism.

Mr. Dos Passos spoke of "The Trend of the Republican Party." The word "trend" prepares the reader for the worst. It is an obsessing word. Anybody who shudders in speech or print at the demoralization of things, the loss of the "old landmarks" of the Constitution cities, are designed to send some of the and the danger of "our institutions," has | pupils back to the soil. The effect of the exto use "trend." It is magical and mystical, a shorter abracadabra.

The "trend" of the Republican party is to the bad and the abyss. So much we know from Mr. Dos Passos's speech which has a "lengthy trend," so to speak. He mentions five specific cases in which the Republican party has assaulted and battered the Constitution. These are "the reconstruction acts, the impeachment of President Johnson, the legal tender decisions, the theft of the Presidency from SAMUEL J. TILDEN and the theft of Panama from the Republic of

Colombia." The Panama case is the only one of these which has more than an archeoremembered that Mr. GORMAN couldn't induce all the Democrats in the Senate to commit themselves to the "theft" theory. Many Southern Democrats, many Northern Democrats, approve that theft." If that was a violation of the Constitution, violation of the Constitution has plenty of Democratic friends.

The "Trend" speech is printed in divers Democratic journals. Their editors know that Mr. Dos Passos is an able man. Doubtless he has done the best that could be done with his material; and he has used "absolutism." "centralization" and other hieratic Democratic formulas with proper frequency. But a disquisition on the absolutism of TIGLATH-PILESER II. would be received with just as much interest by a discriminating public.

The "trend" of the Parker Constitution Club is not alarming, unless it can do more for PARKER than it seems to do for the Constitution.

Some Dry Facts.

The degree to which the residents of the Southern and border States have taken advantage of local option laws to repress the public saloon is shown in this table, compiled from the "American Prohibition Year Book for 1904," the statistics being the latest available at the time of its publication:

Alabama, 20 prohibition counties, 11 dispensary, Arkansas, 44 prohibition counties, 29 license,

divided. Delaware, half the State prohibition Florida, 32 prohibition counties, 13 partial pro

Georgia, 104 prohibition counties, 33 license dispensary.

Kentucky, 47 prohibition countles, 85 with icense, 19 with 2 licenses, 18 countles license. Louisiana, 20 prohibition counties, 39 license. Maryland, 15 prohibition counties, 9 license. Mississippi, 65 prohibition counties, 10 license

Missouri, 12 prohibition counties out of 115 No license in many small towns. Tennessee, State prohibition, except 8 cities over 5,000 inhabitants.

Texas, 141 prohibition counties, 57 partial pr hibition, 48 license.

Virginia, Richmond the only important license

West Virginia, 40 prohibition counties, 14 licens South Carolina has the State dispensary system, and North Carolina has a local option law enacted only last year. The fact that in these States such progress has been made against the licensed sale of liquors does not indicate that the Prohibition party, as a political organization, is likely to come into control of the Government, for the question has been settled as a local one in the communities affected without regard to the political affiliations of the voters.

It is instructive to compare the number of licensed liquor dealers in these States, according to the internal revenue returns for 1902, with the vote cast in 1900 for the Prohibition candidates for Presidential electors. This comparison is made in the following table.

State.	Liquot Dealers.	Prohibition Vote.
Alabama		2,178
Arkansas		584
Delaware	896	588
Florida	723	2,234
Georgia	1,774	1.396
Kentucky		3,780
Louisiana	4,504	5.444
Maryland		4,582
Mississippi	494	2
Missouri	9.708	5,965
Tennessee	2,142	3,900
Texas	6,828	2.644
Virginia		2,150
West Virginia	1,937	1.585

As each of the persons who paid the internal revenue tax may be assumed to employ at least one helper, it is evident that the liquor dealers' votes are many more than those polled in the national election by the Prohibitionists. This is demonstrated also by the fact that the representation of the Prohibition party in State Legislatures, even in "dry States, is insignificant, and shows no signs of increasing.

The present objects of the managers of the Prohibition party are to poll a million votes at a national election and to extend, by local campaigns, the area of territory in which liquor selling is not licensed. It is believed that if a million voters should desert the older parties and signify their belief in the paramountcy of the liquor question as a political issue either the Democratic or Republican party would feel itself forced to come out for prohibition. The vote for Woolley, the Prohibition candidate for President in 1900, was 209,469, or a little less than half of the popular plurality for McKINLEY. This vote was in excess of the combined popular vote cast for the candidates of all the other minor parties which had tickets in the field, but there is little indication that it will soon grow to the million mark, on which the party leaders have set their

In his address at Skipton, at the recen jubilee show of the Craven Agricultural Society, the Duke of DEVONSHIRE said that he attributed much of the migration of country born boys and girls to the larger towns, and the consequent shortage of labor in farming districts, to improper methods of education, which fit the English youth titled to have a campaign opening of its of both sexes for clerical and similar occu-"useful housewives." As the direction of some of the elementary schools will hereafter be in the hands of local authorities the Duke believes that the educationa system may be altered in such manner as to

lessen this migration. In this country the nature studies and school gardens, which are constantly receiving more attention in the schools of tension of such studies to the schools of rural communities would be interesting to watch, and might check the rush of rural

When the school year of 1903-4 closed June the number of teachers employed in the day schools of New York was 13,096 but to care for the increased number of pupils who presented themselves for instruction this week, 200 more women and 40 men must be appointed this month, and more still as the term progresses. The addition of 50,000 pupils to the roll means that within the year the city has been called upon to accommodate in its schools a new population greater than that of many a rge and prosperous city. Elizabeth, N. J., Wilkesbarre, Pa., Kansas City, Kan., Harris logical interest at present. It will be burg, Pa., and Portland, Me., important as

population no greater in number than the new pupils in New York's schools. It is evident that the problem of housing this number of pupils is not an easy one to solve, or one that can be disposed of by makeshift. Of course, the annual addition to the army of pupils will go on increasing

TELEPATHY.

Incidents Related as Indicative of the Existence of Thought Transference. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I no only admire Mr. Goldwin Smith's writings, but revere him as a gentleman who generally Still, in his last two letters to THE SUN I think he is not happy in his arguments Certainly the experiences of men of high standing like himself, Crookes, James, Wal-

lace, Dale Owen and others, should be placed against his. Now, while I am not a believer in apparitions (and in fact have grave doubts about a life hereafter), yet I cannot shut my eyes to a belief in telepathy. Let me then give you some experiences of my own; and if I mention

names it is because I wish to assure your readers of their truth:

1. I had an aunt, the wife of my uncle, the 1. I had an aunt, the wife of my uncle, the late Francis Wayland, president of Brown University, of whom I had not thought for some two years. Not but that she was a kind aunt; only I had not thought of her. One morning, in the summer of 1871, I awoke and told my wife that I had had a strange dream, viz., that I dreamed that there was a family dinner at which my aunt came over from her seat and, bending over my chair at the table, kissed me. In going down to my office that morning I found a letter announcing her death!

2. Dr. S. W. Abbott, the secretary of the

morning I found a letter announcing her death!

2. Dr. S. W. Abbott, the secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Health (a classmate of Secretary Hay and myself) I had not thought of for months. Three days since I thought of him the entire day, though there was nothing to bring him to mind. The day after I received a letter from him about some question connected with a classmate—his letter evidently having been written at the same time I had thought of him.

3. On Friday night last (Sept. 9) I dreamed that I called on my old friend Dr. Buffett of Jersey City, and on going into his room I found him dying. On awakening I said to myself, "I wonder if this will prove true—the same as in the case of my aunt's death?" I at once got up, and going down stairs took up The Sun, my paper, and found among the obituaries a notice of my friend's death!

Now, call these instances coincidences if you will—still, are they not singular?

Once more, if you will look into the "Life of Dr. Wayland," by his sons, the Rev. Lincoin and the late Dean Wayland of the Yale law school, you will find these two anecdotes related:

"When her son—the subject of this memoir—was expected home from New York (his

"When her son—the subject of this memoir—was expected home from New York (his parents residing in Troy, N. Y.' during the winter of 1814-15, Mrs. Wayland, his mother, who was sitting with her husband, suddenly walked the room in contrattition to assist whiter of 1814-19, with her husband, suddenly who was sitting with her husband, suddenly walked the room in great agitation, saying, Pray for my son; Francis is in danger. So urgent was her request that her husband joined her in prayer for his deliverance from

urgent was her request that her husband joined her in prayer for his deliverance from peril.

"At the expected time he returned. His not er at once asked, 'What has taken place?' It appeared that while coming up the Hudson River on a sloop he had fallen overboard and the sloop had passed over him. He was an athletic swimmer, and readily kept himself affoat till he could be rescued. Was it the unspeakable power of a mother's love that imparted a vision more than natural?"

The narrative goes on further, thus:
"Another circumstance in the life of Mrs. Wayland was sufficiently remarkable to merit recital. At the time of their removal to America it was the design of Mr. Wayland (the father of President Wayland) and his wife to return in a few years and visit the relatives whom they had left behind, especially the mother of Mrs. Wayland. This purpose they often spoke of to each other. But one morning she raid to her husband, on waking: 'I do not wish to return to England. My mother is dead.' No previous intimation of her ill health had been received. Her husband, unknown to her, made a minute of the time of her declaration: and a subsequent arrival brought the news of the event, which had occurred at about the time at which her mind was thus impressed."

One word more. Mr. Goldwin Smith, in his letter of to-day, comparing telepathy with wireless telegraphy, remarks that the latter has a "medium," while the former has none. Pray, on what grounds does he base this statement and make such an assertion with so much confidence?

MOUNT VERNON, Sept. 11.

MOUNT VERNON, Sept. 11. STONE.

A Citizen's Reflections on Crime and Vice.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The people of this city should not complain of the present reign of crime, as since the great "reform" move ment it has been the settled policy of the city government that the duty of the police is not to government that the duty of the police is not to detect and prevent crime or to protect life and property, but to hunt for "vice." It is impossible for the police to perform the commonplace duties ers without neglecting the flambou ant hunt for vice which is so popular at present, and consequently, while they are arresting unfort-unate women, wheedling bartenders into selling liquor during forbidden hours and tearing out the fronts of alleged gambling houses, murderers, thieves and crooks of all kinds operate unchecked. Last Sunday four detectives succeeded in buying peer in a Forty-second street resort, and in arres ing two women, and almost at the same time three Italian gentlemen had a trifling dispute (conducted with knives) at the corner of Elm and Grand streets, in which all three were pretty well carved; during the melée another Italian drives up in a wagon, No arrests-no policeman to be seen until after the fight. It is not necessary to do more than allud which happen daily. To an old fashioned person it really seems as if it would be advisable to hav alkers rest for a while and give the marderers and hieves a little attention. CHICOT.

The Democratic Platform.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I shall con dense for you the Democratic national platform into six words and an explanation: WE'RE HUNGRY: GIVE US A SHOW. Explanation: We admit that the Republicans were right. We think we have become sane. We wouldn't change

a thing so that you could see it—wouldn't if we could, couldn't if we would—though we'd rather like to tear down the flag in the Philippines. So because we stand for nothing distinctive we think it would be safe to let us come in and warm our toes. We don't think it's square to keep us out for another four years now that we've crawfished and promised to give the country as good an imita has been getting.

A Democrat myself, it gives me no pleasure to

write this. I wish I could modify it, but I can't.

BROOKLYN, Sept. 12. W. MATCHES.

Not West New York, but the Palisades. TO THE POITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I notice the suggestion is made that the several places on the west shore of the Hudson opposite New York city, "from Bergen Point to Fort Lee," be joined in a single city, to be called West New York.

In this day of swift movement and large areas of territory it would be well, it seems to me, to include the whole territory from Jersey City to Englewood, or at least to the State boundary on the

Then, for a name (while the several villages and cities continued to be known locally by their pres-ent ones), the common designation might well be PELHAM MANOR, Sept. 12.

Says Chefoo. From the Baltimore American From the Baltimore American.
Once again Port Arthur's fallen,
Says Chefoo;
Kuropatkin's had a maulin',
Says Chefoo;
Stakelberg has been surrounded,
Reinenkampf has been impoundedAll's confusion worse confounded,
Says Chefoo.

Japs besieging are defeated, Says Chefoo; Says Chefoo;
Nodzu nurriedly retreated,
Says Chefoo;
Kuropatkin's won the day.
Old Oyama he will stay—
Hussians never run away,
Says Chefoo.

Prince Oukhtomsky's been suspended, Says Chefoo: Says Chefoo;
War is practically ended.
Says Chefoo;
Fighting's only just begun,
Both sides madly on the runTelling whoppers is such fun,
Says Chefoo.

Poor Kuroki's quite prostrated, No, he's not; he's quite elated, Says Chefoo; Fighting's over and it's not, Weather's freezing cold, but hot— Ain't it fun to send out rot? Says Chefoo.

If I dwelt with Uncle Sammy, Says Chefoo;
With election dope I'd cram me,
Says Chefoo;
I would say that, sure as fate,
Parker'd win, November eight—
Some poor fool would take the balt
Says Chefoo.

these communities are, each had in 1900 a DE MARTENS AND THE CZAR. Our View of Neutral Rights and Contra-

band Confirmed by Russian Authority. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Recent advices from St. Petersburg indicate that the Czar and his Cabinet are now considering the propriety of modifying the position taken by the Russian Government, at the beginning o

the war, on the subject of contraband.

The proclamation issued at that time included in its prohibited list not only articles primarily intended for military use, and there-fore pronounced contraband by the law of nations, but many other articles, which bave been universally held as innocent merchan-dise by all the authorities, and by none more zealously than by the Russian publicists. Among these latter none stands so high as M. de Martens, professor of international law at the University of St. Petersburg, who en joys a world wide reputation by reason of his able writings on the subject of International law, and whose eminent authors, at fitty recognized by his Government in his appointment as one of its representatives at The Hague conference.

If it be true, as stated, that Prof. de Martens has delivered to the Emperor an opinion favorable to the contentions of this country and Great Britain, he has only expressed in that opinion the views which he has long held and eloquently advocated in his writings and in the discussions held by the Institute

tinguished member.

Prof. de Martens may well remind the Czar that his proclamation is directly in conflict with the position that Russia has always maintained upon the subject of neutral rights of which she has been the champion for more that it was a Russian sovereign, the illustrious Empress Catherine, known in history as the Semiramis of the North, who first raised the standard of resistance to the aggressions of the belligerent Powers against neutral commerce during our Revolutionary War, and inspired the neutral Powers of Europe to form the famous league known as "The Armed Neutrality," which formulated and enforced during that war the modern doc-

trine of neutral rights.

He may call attention to the memorable declaration of the Empress delivered to the courts of Great Britain, France and Spain, in which, after reciting the scrupulous regard which she had paid to the rights of neutrals during her recent war with Turkey, she said:

This conduct, as well as the scrupulous exactness with which she has observed the rules of neutrality during the course of this war, has given her room to hope that her subjects would peaceably enjoy the fruits of their industry and the advantages which belong to all neutral nations. Experience has, however, taught her the contrary, since neither these considerations nor the regard due to what the law of nations in general prescribes have been able to hinder the subjects of her Majesty from being oftentimes troubled in their navigation or interrupted or retarded in their commerce by the subects of the belligerent Powers. These interrup awaken the attention of all the neutral nations, and oblige her Majesty, the Empress, to seek to deliver herself from them by all means suitable to her dignity and the well being of her subjects. But before she shall put them into execution, being filled with a sincere desire to prevent all subsequent acts of violence, she has thought that it was consistent with her equity to lay open to all Europe the principles which will govern her and which are indispensable to prevent all misunderstandings

as well as all which might give occasion to them. the more confidence as these principles are drawn from the primitive law of nations and adopted by all nations which the belligerent Powers them-selves cannot enervate—at least, without violat-ing the laws of neutrality and contemning the fundamental rules which they themselves have adopted in divers treaties and alliances now ex-

isting.

Article I.—That all neutral vessels ought to navigate freely from one port to another, as well as upon the coasts of the Powers now at war.

Article II.—That the effects belonging to the subjects of the belligerent Powers shall be free in jects of the belligerent Powers anali be free in neutral ships, excepting always contraband goods. Article III.—That her Imperial Majesty in con-sequence of the limits above fixed, will adhere strictly to that which is stipulated by the tenth and eleventh articles of her treaty of commerce with Great Britain (1766), concerning the manner in which she ought to act toward all the belligerent Powers.

Article IV.-That as to what concerns a port Article 17.—Itsit as to what concerns a port blocked up, we ought not in truth to consider as such any but those which are found so well shut up by a fixed and sufficient number of vessels belonging to the Power which attacks, it that one cannot attempt to enter such port without evident dan-

Article V.—That these principles ought to serve as a rule in all proceedings whenever there is question of the legality of prizes.

The tenth and eleventh articles of the treaty with Great Britain provided that the subjects of the contracting powers should be permitted "to go, come, and trade freely ith States with which either of them might be at war, except in military stores and at blockaded ports. With these exceptions they were to be permitted to transport to belligwere to be permitted to transport to being-erent countries "all sorts of commodities as well as passengers without the least impedi-ment." Arms and military accourtements were declared to be contraband and subject to confiscation, but it was stipulated that "neither the ships nor passengers nor the other commodities found at the same time shall be detained or hindered from prosecuting their voyage."

shall be detained or hindered from prosecuting their voyage."

The effect of the Declaration was that the Empress would require all belligerents to accept the provisions of this treaty as to contraband, and they were informed that, for the purpose of enforcing these provisions, a considerable portion of the Russian fleet had been ordered to sea.

A copy of this Declaration was sent to each of the neutral Powers, and they were invited to join Russia in the protection of their mutual rights. Denmark, Sweden and Holland quickly gave their adhesion to the proposition and entered into treaties with Russia, by which an alliance was formed to support the principles of free trade by the combined fleets of these Powers. Prussia, Portugal and Austria expressed their approval, and spain, acquiesced. Great Britain alone refused to recognize formally the principles of her own treaty, but her fleets ceased their aggressions upon neutral commerce. In the treaty between Russia and Denmark it is declared:

declared:

To avoid all errors and misunderstanding concerning the subject of the name of contraband, her Majesty, the Empress of Russia, and his Majesty, the King of Denmark and Norway, declare that they acknowledge only as effects of contraband those which are comprehended in the treates subsisting between the said courts and one or the other of the belligerent Powers. * Aircash they defer Majestics, in their declarations to the belligerent Powers, have grounded themselves upon the general principles of the law of nature, from whence are derived the liberty of commerce and navigation, the rights of neutral nations, and have resolved to depend no longer upon the arbitrary interpretations that partial advantages and momentary interests may dictate.

The nolicy thus inaugurated by the great

mentary interests may dictate.

The policy thus inaugurated by the great Empress has continued to be the policy of Russia down to the opening of the present war. All her great statesmen have been the firm and uncompromising advocates of neutral rights. With such a record before him, it seems strange that the Czar should have been led into the error of issuing a proclamation that so thoroughly ignores them.

The protests of the neutral Powers, led by the United States and Great Britain, it is to be hoped, will convince him that he has been be hoped, will convince him that he has been led astray by ignorant counsellors, and the fact that he has now called upon such an expert in international law as Prof. de Marexpert in international law as Prof. de Martens for advice in the matter, gives us nopethat he will speedily return to the old and enlightened policy of his predecessors, and discard "the arbitrary interpretations that momentary interests may dictate."

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. J. S. TUCKER.

As the British Cousin Spells Us.

From a correspondent of the London Speaker. Fortunately, as you say, "there exists always i dasm, which is not amenable to 'management' and it is just this reserve power which is going to assert itself now, as it did in 1884 and in 1892, and elect Parker rather than Roosevelt, though perhaps Tammany and Tilman may be more objectionable than Quay and Addix. Yours, &c.,

Sister Jones's Condolence. From the National Magazine.
When I'm down in my mouth, an' my sperits run Jow.

There's a place in this town where I never go For a word to encourage—a smile that'll cheer. No; I tell you in trouble I steer pretty clear Of old Sister Jones and her daughter.

For, "Why didn't you do as you'd oughier!"
I'd never done this or done that in your place!"
Sister Jones she would say, an 'she'd argy the case
Then Mehitabel Jane she'd put in her oar;

HARD TO DEFINE RADIUM. Prof. Hallock at an Appraiser's Hearing Has to Give It Up.

The question whether or not radium is crude mineral and as such entitled to admission free of duty came up at an Appraiser's hearing at the Government stores in Christopher street yesterday. The American Express Company had imported for H. Lieber, a chemist, 25 milligrammes of radium bromide, valued at \$1,028. The importation was assessed at 25 per cent. ad valorem duty. Mr. Lieber protested on the ground that radium was a crude mineral. The hearing was before Appraiser Wilbur

F. Lunt. Ex-Appraiser Col. J. B. Wilkinson was counsel for Mr. Lieber. The Government was represented by A. H. Washburne.

Prof. William Hallock of the department Prof. William Hallock of the department of physics at Columbia appeared as a witness for the importer, but he was unable to make any unqualified statement as to the crudity of radium. Mr. Lunt barricaded himself behind Webster's Dactionary. The professor bombarded him with opinions as to the difference between metals and minerals, admitting, however, that radium bromide was not necessarily found in nature. When Mr. Lunt asked if it was a crude mineral Prof. Hallock answered; "I am unable to answer that question, I am afraid, because as I understand it you use the word 'crude' in a different sense from that in which we use it. With us it means 'mixed with impurities.' The importers evidently use the term to mean

us it means 'mixed with impurities.' The importers evidently use the term to mean raw material out of which other things can be made."

"From your standpoint is it a crude mineral?" Prof. Hallook was asked.

"I should not call it a crude mineral," concluded Prof. Hallook, "because it is as pure as we can make it."

The importer's counsel asked if the definition of "crude" as "elementary" would affect Prof. Hallook's answer.

"Of course," was the reply, "in one sense radium bromide is not elementary because it is a compound, but it is elementary because it may be used in other things."

The protesting importer will submit a brief, pending receipt of which the Appraiser reserved his decision.

PUBLIC AND PARISH SCHOOLS. An Appeal From the Superintendent of the

Catholic Parish Schools. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your paper of this day, the 13th, you enumerate the number of children in New York city for whom the Board of Education was unable to provide full time school accommodation vesterday in our public schools. To a certain extent this condition is, no doubt, the result of recent labor strikes by which it was found imposs ble to get ready the new school buildings for occupation. It is very doubtful if the city of New York will ever be able to erect sufficient school buildings to meet the steady natural rearly increase in the population of children f school age.

But, in the figures in your paper, you failed to include the number of children of New York city at present in the Catholic parish schools, in which an elementary education is given free to the children, but at the cost of much money to our Catholic churches.

When our public schools reopened their doors to the city's children yesterday, 66 Catholic parish schools were also opened to the Catholic children in the boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx, and about 50 in the

hattan and The Bronx, and about 30 in these boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. In these 116 school buildings more than 75,000 children of the city were enrolled. These children are distributed in about 1,400 classes and are taught by 1,400 teachers.

These 75,000 children, therefore, were not provided for yesterday in any way with any kind of school accommodation, nor will they be considered during the year by the city of New York through its Board of Education. On the contrary, their education, their teachers, their books and their school buildings, with the furniture, are and will be provided and paid for out of the Church money of the parishes in which the schools are conducted.

The elementary education provided in these schools is at least equal in all respects to the education of our public school system, and the Church money that pays for it comes out of the pockets of the Catholic citizens of New York. These citizens, at the same time, are contributing their share of the taxes, collected for the support of our public school system. They are, consequently, helping the city of New York in its work of education in two very practical ways: First, by educating their own children at their own expense, and, second, by cheerfully contributing to the cost of educating the rest of the children of the city.

It is easy to picture the crippled condition

second, by cheerfully contributing to the cost of educating the rest of the children of the city.

It is easy to picture the crippled condition of the Board of Education on the reopening of the schools yesterday, if, in addition to the thousands of children who did apply for school room and who had to be put on the half time list, they had been confronted by these 75,000 Catholic children from our parish schools, demanding room and education in our public school system.

When, therefore, there is question of the number of the school children of our city for whom the Board of Education cannot provide education in full time or otherwise, the number of the city's children in our Catholic schools must be included that a correct and complete count may be had.

The situation, then, is this: The Catholic Church in New York city is providing 75,000 Catholic children—children citizens—with an elementary education up to the requirements of the Board of Education without a cent of cost to the city, thereby immeasurably relieving and assisting the Board of Education in its desperate efforts to fulfil the promises of the city's present administration to give every boy and girl of school age a seat in the schools for a full school; day.

And, since it actually costs the city of New York 40 a year to educate each boy and girl in our public schools, it follows that the Catholic parish school is saving the city annually in education \$3,000,000. When the value of the Catholic school is saving the city annually in education \$3,000,000. When the value of the Catholic school is saving the city annually in education \$3,000,000. When the value of the States in our free and imperishable republic. Its citizens, as a body, are fair minded and they love justice! Relying on their high sense of justice, I am convinced the time will scon come when they will vote to appropriate some yearly recompense from the public school taxes for the Catholic schools of our city and State for the unselfish help they are giving in the noble work of the edu

cation of all the children so dear alike to Church and State. (Rev.) THOMAS A. THORNTON, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Arch-diocese of New York. NEW YORK, Sept. 13.

The British House of Commons

A Retiring Member in the National Review. The fallacy that the House of Commons is the best club in London is probably exploded by this time. It would be difficult to imagine any place nuch less like a club. No self-respecting club would endure the members' smoking room for a week. In the winter, unless here is anything of particular interest on in the House, it is too crowded for memhers to be able to find scats. In the summer it is insufferably hot and stuffy, and all the year round it is unwholesomely draughty. No club would stand the food which is served to members of the House of Commons. Still less would any club stand the House of Commons waiters. The permanent ser-vants are excellent, courteous, civil and obliging. But the large number of members who have to lunch and dine at the House very frequently ren-ders it impossible to keep enough good permanent servants to attend to every one, and the results are,

to say the least, uncomfortable.

Perhaps nothing will leave a deeper impression on the hind of the member when he has finally retired from the House of Commons than the deadly dulness of the place. If members would consent to speak only when they had something to say, if they would remember that what may seem of great interest to themseives is simply a bore to every one else, and if they would content themselves with saying what they have got to say in as few clear words as possible, life in the House of Commons words as possible, life in the House of Commons would be less dull and far more work would be got through in far less time.

Nothing shows the extreme dulness of the House of Commons more plainly than the way in which members roar with laughter at some trivial loke or

From the Saturday Review.

We may take 1896 as the year when motor cars hegan to be common. But up to the end of last year not more than 14,000 "self propelled vchicles" had been registered. Since the bill came into operation on Jan. 1 the number has increased to over 30,000. The total number of motor cycles has actually been tripled in the last seven months. Probably the number of motor cycles is even greater than appears, as it is a not uncommon practice for owners of cycles to take out a car license, which costs the same as a cycle license and includes the right to ride the smaller machine.

COMES TO TEACH WITH A PH.D. A Vivacious and Distinguished Fraulein Wonders at Our Wakefulness.

One of the most interesting of the foreign arrivals in this city in the last few days is a young woman from Germany. She is Miss Lily L. Stroebe and she is the first German woman holding the degree of doctor of philosophy granted in her native country to come here to settle.

Miss Stroebe was graduated from the University of Heidelberg last March with her degree, which she prefixes to her name in this style: "Dr. phil." She is about 24 years old, bright and brimming over with vivacity. She comes here to teach, and she expects the distinction that her degree will give her over other teachers to help in putting her in the front rank. She is a clergyman's daughter from Illenau, a little town in the southern part of Germany. A Sun reporter saw her last evening at

the Invermere Hotel, where she is staying with friends. She speaks excellent English, with a slight German accent.

"New York is wonderful," said Miss

Stroebe. "But how do people thrive here on so little sleep?" The living and dead languages she is able

o use make a formidable list.

VETERINARY SOCIETY MEETS. Dr. George F. Berns Elected President

-Clinics to Be Held To-night. The New York State Veterinary Medical Society began its fourteenth annual meeting in the Assembly, Fulton and Pierrepont streets, Brooklyn, yesterday. It was largely attended. Owing to the absence of Senator Patrick Henry McCarren, who is in Baltimore, and who was down on the programme to deliver the address of wel-

programme to deliver the address of wel-come, that duty was performed by Borough President Littleton.

These officers were elected for the ensu-ing year: President, Dr. George H. Berns of Brooklyn; vice-president, Dr. Charles Corvie of Ogdensburg; secretary-treasurer, Dr. William Henry Kelly of Albany.

Routine business was taken up after Dr. William Henry Kelly of Albany.
Routine business was taken up, after which a number of papers were read bearing upon the profession. To-night the members will visit Dr. Berns's infirmary members will street where surgical clinics at 74 Adams street, where surgical clinics for major operations will be conducted. This will be continued to-morrow morn-ing, and in the afternoon, after a dinner,

RADIUM AND SOLAR HEAT. Latest Great Discovery Throws New

Light Upon Age of the Earth.

the party will take a trolley trip to Coney

From the National Review. The discovery of radio activity makes it necessary to reconsider our estimates of the time during which the earth can have been fitted for the abode of living beings.

Consider first the sun's heat. We know that the sun is incandescent—that it is a glow-ing white hot body. It has been giving off heat for countless ages. Now, how can this heat supply be kept up? Why does the sun not cool down, owing to the loss of its prime

The most obvious answer would be that this does happen, but that the cooling of so large a body is too slow to be noticeable seem at first sight to be a plausible solution enough. But calculation conclusively proves that it is insufficient. The heat which is stored up in a white hot body would very soon be exhausted if it gave out heat at any-

thing like the rate that the sun does. The same reason prevents our supposing that combustion can account for the output of solar heat.
Until lately the theory advanced by Von

Helmhoitz has held the field. He showed that if the sun was assumed to be steadily contracting to smaller dimensions, if, in fact, the outer parts were assumed to be falling down on the inner ones, enough heat would be down on the inner ones, shough heat would be generated in the process to account for the observed output for a considerable period. The contraction which it would be necessary to postulate is too small to be detected even by the most careful observations on the sun's diameter which can be made.

It will readily be understood that calculations of this kind are affected by considerable sources of uncertainty: but when due allowances have been made for these it seems impossible to admit that this source of heat can keep up the supply for more than, say, fifty

ances have been made for these it seems impossible to admit that this source of heat can keep up the supply for more than, say, fifty million years. Indeed, very high authority puts it lower than that.

Fifty million years is a long time, judged by human standards. But there are strong reasons for regarding it as an insufficient allowance. These are partly geological, partly zoological.

The earth's surface is composed, in the main, of stratified rocks, that is, of layers of consolidated mud, deposited one on top of the other. These layers extend to an enormous thickness, as we are able to see when we examine cases where some of this lowest ones have been brought to the surface by upheaval. We can form some idea of the gigantic period which the deposition of these layers would take if we examine cases where the process is now in operation. The prevalent opinion is that fifty million years is quite an insufficient allowance of time. All but the very lowest of the stratified rocks (and perhaps, even the very lowest; contain fossils; thus it is certain that the earth's surface was fitted for the abode of animal life at the time they were deposited. In other words, its temperature cannot have then been widely different from what it now is, and the sun must have been shining then with much the same brilliancy that itdoes now so that seenlegical evidenceseems to require a much older age for the sun's heat than it has been possible

legical evidence seems to require a much older age for the sun's heat than it has been possible to account for.

Zoology points in the same direction. Consider the extraordinary complexity of structure of the bodies of the higher animals, and especially of the human body; consider further the fact that not the slightest essential alteration of development of that structure has been observed to take place during historical periods, and it will be admitted that no small allowance of time is required for the Darwinian process of natural selection, by which the most complicated types of life are believed to have been developed from the simplest.

Now that the development of heat by radioactive change has been recognized it is possible to understand how the sun's heat can have continued for much longer periods than were formerly intelligible, for the present output of solar heat would be tolerably well accounted for if the sun contained as much radium as pitchblende does. The radium present at any one moment would, it is true, have only a limited life; it is necessary to assume the constant evolution of radium, or of some other radioactive element unknown to us, as in pitchblende and other similar minerals. A thousand million years heat can without improbability be thus accounted for.

The hypothesis that radioactive processes are at work in the sun is not altogether without confirmation, though we have no direct proof of it, for helium is abundant in the sun; and helium is, so far as we know, essentially a product of radioactive change.

Kissing the Blarney Stone.

From the Gael. Last year, while in the south of Ireland, I paid a visit to Blarney Castle and while there-had the queer experience of kissing the Blarney Stone.

famous in song and story.

One of our party, having gone through the ordeal before, volunteered to kiss the stone first and show us how it is done. When it is understood that you are attempting to kiss a stone set in the outside wall, and you on the inside, one can guess that it is no casy task. It is best to take off your coat and watch and chain and empty your pockets. There is an opening, as it were, in the floor. You sit on the edge of this, catch hold of two bars in the wall and lower yourself backward down the opening till you are able to stretch out and reach the stone you do this the rest of the party hang on to your

The precaution of taking off the watch and chain and removing money from your pockets is a very wise one, as you have to hang head downward to get at the atone.

So-called Prophecies

From the London Specialor.

Any man of a lively fancy, who knows enough of human nature to realize its abiding needs, can enumerate future discoveries by the dozen with a fair chance that perhaps one in a thousand may be realised within a century. To the same class belong the curious anticipations by native tribes, which generally take the form of news known, when by no conceivable means could information have reached them by ordinary channels. The present writer believes that this phenomenon, which some have explained by telepathy, is simply a form of anticipation. The native is an inveterate guesser. anticipation. The native is an inveterate guesser, and since his tongue never ceases and his invention